

## Arens: Israel staying in Lebanon

AMMAN (R) — Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens said Monday that the continuing of Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon would not cause Israel to withdraw from the country. "If it were only a matter of the PLO and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and disarming them, it would be an improvement," Mr. Arens said when asked if he wanted the government to extend its authority to the entire country. "But since everything that has been done in Lebanon has been done under the auspices of the Syrians and under their instructions, they will make every effort not to stabilize the situation here," Mr. Arens told reporters. He spoke one day after Syria said it had accepted U.S. proposals for convening Middle East peace talks that Israel had earlier rejected. Israel earlier this month linked any withdrawal from South Lebanon to the pullout of all Syria's estimated 40,000 troops from Lebanon. Previously it said it would leave when it no longer faced the threat of guerrilla attacks on its northern settlements. Mr. Arens said while government troops had moved against Palestinian guerrillas, they had not disbanded Lebanese guerrillas.

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## Officials report Arafat's escape in car accident

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was involved in a high-speed car crash while travelling from Baghdad to Amman Sunday, Palestinian officials disclosed Monday. They said his bullet-proof car hit a bump and overturned. "It was a miracle. Thank God he was unharmed," one of the officials told Reuters. Mr. Arafat was returning to Amman after brief talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, their first post-war meeting. "The Mercedes carrying Mr. Arafat was going at full speed when it hit a road bump and flew several metres into the air before turning on its side," the official said. One of Mr. Arafat's bodyguards, identified as Ashraf, hugged the Palestinian leader to try to protect him. The bodyguard suffered a broken elbow and is being treated at a local hospital. The incident occurred inside Iraq, 160 kilometres from the Jordanian border.

## Lewy to meet Hurd

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will meet British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd during a visit to London coinciding with the Group of Seven summit, a foreign ministry spokesman said Monday. He said the official purpose of Mr. Levy's two-day visit, beginning Tuesday, was to meet Israeli ambassadors to European countries. He declined to give further details or say exactly when Mr. Levy would meet Mr. Hurd.

## Palestinian wins battle against Jewish cemetery

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian and an Israeli peace group have won legal battle to block plans for a Jewish cemetery on the occupied Arab territories, the group said Monday. Rashed Al Khairi, a resident of the West Bank town of Ramallah, and Peace Now jointly petitioned the high court of justice to block the cemetery near Ramallah. The petition led the religious affairs and the defence ministries to agree that the cemetery should not be built.

## Grenade fired at Kuwaiti firm

KUWAIT (R) — A rocket-propelled grenade fired at the premises of a firm in Kuwait City Monday caused a fire but no casualties, the Kuwaiti News Agency reported. It quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying the grenade was fired by an unidentified person at a building in Salamiya district. It did not give a possible motive for the attack. Government efforts to persuade Kuwaitis to surrender arms left behind after liberation have been largely unsuccessful.

## Mahjoub suspect threatens Mubarak

CARIO (R) — Muslim extremists accused of killing Egypt's parliament speaker chanted death threats against President Hosni Mubarak from behind bars in court Monday. "We started with (Speaker) Mahjoub and our minds will not be at ease until we get Hosni Mubarak's head and those of other leaders," said defendant Saifat Abdul Ghani, recaptured last week after being on the run for almost three months.

"Mubarak, O Mubarak, Saifat is awaiting you," chanted the 14 defendants standing behind bars in one of Cairo's heavily-guarded security courts.

## Extradition of Israeli to U.S. rejected

LARNACA (AP) — A court Monday rejected a request for the extradition of an Israeli investment banker to the United States to face charges of fraud. Natan Batshevitch, 43, was arrested Saturday soon after his arrival at the Larnaca marina aboard a yacht because passport control police determined there was an international warrant for his arrest. Police sought an eight-day remand order in court Monday, pending the arrival of more detailed documentation from the United States to support an extradition request.

and material losses that were foreseeable, for the environmental disaster and for the turbulence in the region that will not be over for a long time," the King said.

"We were really surprised that people misunderstood us as we have always been for stability and good neighbourly relations and we always done our best to achieve these things but a majority of the world, including the United States, adopted an attitude that 'you are either with us or against us,' the King said. "This is something very strange that I have never encountered in the past."

He said that Jordan was never for war, and never a party to it, and "we never aware the Iraqi invasion was going to happen."

"We sensed danger and tried to alert everybody to the possibilities that something was going to go wrong and we wanted to end the occupation of Kuwait peacefully," the King said.

"Let me be very very clear," the King said. "We were against Iraq's action in Kuwait and we were against Iraqi intransigence

in not taking any of the opportunities to move out of Kuwait and to resolve this question peacefully. We always had the feeling that sooner or later people would understand us if they know the facts. We never conspired against anybody. We fought against conspiracies where they existed in the past, time and again."

"When people realise this they may be going to feel — any decent people would — that they have wronged a country, and wronged the people and the leader of those people — a friend of mine. I asked him why? On what basis? He said: 'Do not worry.'

"We are still suffering until now. As signatories to the (Arab) joint defence agreement we had to fulfil our obligations and hand over our destiny and our forces to



the Arab League. I personally believe that these experiences illustrate the need to create democratic institutions in the region: I hope that our example might show the way; a country where people share power, express their opinions, discuss and debate, where there is respect for human rights, where there is democracy because that is the only guarantee, that things do not go haywire."

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## King says no regrets over position towards Gulf crisis

Jordan sought to end occupation and avert war, but its position was misunderstood

## Fate of government hangs in balance with the emergence of new bloc in House

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fate of the government of Prime Minister Taber Masri hung in the balance Monday as the newly-formed, 13-member Constitution Bloc was still undecided over which way its voters would go in the upcoming vote of confidence.

Deputy Thoghan Hindawi, leader of the bloc, held several critical meetings with the prime minister and other senior officials in an effort to reach accord on the vote. But there was no word on the final outcome since Mr. Hindawi was expected first to brief his colleagues in the bloc (a meeting was scheduled for late last night) and then get them to agree on a group decision.

There were indications before the meeting last night that Mr. Hindawi was moving towards supporting the government, but it was not clear whether he would be able to convince the rest of the bloc deputies, a number of whom are ardent opponents of the cabinet, to vote for the government en masse, failing that, to flout their vote.

In the aftermath of the Muslim Brotherhood movement's decision to oppose the government,

Mr. Masri still needs the support of most members of the Hindawi bloc to secure a majority in the Lower House.

Until last night the prime minister had the solid support of his own National Bloc (17 members) after Deputies Sultan Udwan and Jamal Haddad defected to the Constitution Bloc, the Democratic Bloc (nine members) after Deputy Ibrahim Ghabbash defected to the Constitution Bloc and the independent Islamists (six members) after Jamal Sarayah defected to the Constitution Bloc.

With the favourable vote of one deputy Abdul Baqi Gammo, who will be out of the country during the confidence vote, the total favourable votes are 33.

Since the Muslim Brotherhood bloc has 24 members in Parliament (deputies Nayef Abu Tayeh and Ziad Abu Mahfouz have joined the bloc) and can count on the support of several other sympathisers, it would be next to impossible for Mr. Masri to win a majority unless he gained the confidence of the Constitution Bloc or most members who belong to it.

The situation has become very delicate, one vote might make it or break it," one observer said.

"Between 32 to 38 will vote against and two to four will abstain," he added.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the

single largest bloc in parliament, announced Sunday its 24 deputies will vote against Mr. Masri citing differences over foreign and domestic policy. There were media reports Monday that the movement was split over the decision, but they were quickly dismissed by the spiritual leader of the movement, Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifa.

"We will distribute a one-page statement Tuesday in which we will state our position," Mr. Khalifa told the Jordan Times.

Asked whether the movement would change its mind over withholding confidence he said: "I doubt it."

He said that the Muslim Brotherhood deputies were "also" deputies of the nation and are free to take their decision as they see fit."

"They announced their decision to withhold their confidence. One of the deputies will read our statement tomorrow (Tuesday)," he said.

Some observers said that the movement's decision to withhold confidence may encourage the Constitution Bloc to follow suit "to reap benefits from this coalition of forces."

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## U.S.-Soviet nuclear pact likely to top G-7 summit

will bring.

The leaders of the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Britain posed for a group photograph, then opened their talks in the music room of Lancaster House where Chopin once played the piano for Queen Victoria.

The G-7 seemed likely to agree to back up President Bush's threat to bomb Iraq if it does not destroy its nuclear facilities.

"We are all very clear, Britain, the United States, France and others that one way or another we are going to prevent Iraq becoming a nuclear power," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

Less unanimity or enthusiasm was evident over providing help for Mr. Gorbachev's stricken economy — although a breakthrough on strategic arms might make the United States more responsive.

Several spokesmen Monday appeared chiefly concerned to explain why Mr. Gorbachev should not expect too much.

He could cut arms spending or tap his huge gold holdings rather than seek a restructuring of his foreign debt of \$65 billion, reporters were told.

The trio of European continental powers in the G-7 — Germany, France and Italy — appeared more sympathetic.

German Chancellor Helmut

(Continued on page 5)

## Iraq should be allowed to buy its needs — U.N. team

GENEVA (Agencies) — A United Nations team Monday suggested a partial, U.N.-supervised lifting of sanctions against Iraq to enable it to meet its most urgent import needs.

It said a large portion of Iraq's population faced calamity as each month passed and suggested that part of Baghdad's assets held abroad be unfrozen or the country be allowed to sell oil.

Iraq has said it has \$3.5 billion of assets frozen in foreign bank accounts after its invasion of Kuwait last August.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee last week postponed a decision on an Iraqi request to sell \$1 billion worth of oil to pay for food and medicines.

The report said Iraq should be allowed to import food, agricultural inputs, drugs, vehicles for the health service, spare parts for sanitation systems and equipment for the electric power and communications sectors.

The report was compiled by a senior U.N. delegation, headed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the head of U.N. relief operations in the Gulf. The recommendation that U.N. sanctions should ease was widely expected following the team's five-day visit to Iraq last week.

Prince Sadruddin issued the 47-page document at a meeting of U.N. agencies and donor governments in Geneva. He also submitted a copy to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar

and said he was ready to discuss the issues in detail with the Sanctions Committee, a subcommittee of the U.N. Security Council.

"Iraq's own national resources, whether material or human, must obviously be put to good use," said the report.

The report said Iraq's humanitarian needs for exceeded international aid.

The Iraqi government had the potential to generate funds required to cover food, medicines and other necessities.

"This could be done either by the unfreezing of substantial amounts of Iraqi assets now held abroad or through the pumping and subsequent international sale of oil," the report said.

It said Iraq was able to export one million barrels of oil a day, a potential revenue of \$5.5 billion over one year.

The team said it could not pronounce itself on how its findings could be reconciled with the sanctions.

But arrangements could be set up whereby Iraq's request for imports to meet its needs would be submitted to the United Nations and subjected to monitoring.

"The formula agreed upon would provide for clear records of all transactions to be furnished (to the U.N.). Constant accountability would be assured, as would

be the case with the senior envoy to establish a U.N. presence in the sensitive region.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who is in charge of humanitarian efforts in the Gulf, said Monday that U.N. guards had moved back to the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

(Continued on page 5)

## Rao wins confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao won a vote of confidence for his three-week-old minority government Monday after a left-centre opposition bloc abstained. "There is no question of expressing confidence in your government, but we're not going to do anything that will precipitate a mid-term election," Indrajit Gupta, a senior Communist Party member, said during the confidence debate in parliament. Mr. Rao, who needed only a simple majority, won the vote 241 to 111, the parliament secretary said. The secretary said 112 members abstained. "The people will give us a shoe-beating if we go to them again (in new elections)," Mr. Gupta said, speaking on behalf of the Left Front, an alliance of Socialist and Communist parties. "We are not going to vote for your government or against your government. We are going to abstain for now." Former Prime Minister V.P. Singh said Friday his National Front centrist coalition also would abstain. The largest opposition party, the Hindu right-wing Bharatiya Janata, voted against Mr. Rao.

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## Syrian response prompts Baker to resume mission

Combined agency dispatches

er's visit would be aimed at clarifying the Israeli position. "Jordan is awaiting further clarifications about the Syrian reply, the U.S. administration's position and the Israeli stand," the minister added.

In reply to a question on prospects of peace in the light of the new developments, Dr. Ensour said: "Everything depends on how one views peace. There is a difference between putting off a just and honourable solution to the problem and reaching agreements in name only without U.N. resolutions and the idea of exchanging land for peace."

The minister stressed that "peace based on proscriptions and ignoring the basic facts and the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination in their own homeland would be an incomplete, futile and negative peace deal and will only temporarily delay the coming wars."

While President Bush described the Syrian acceptance of his proposals as "a good response," Israel reaffirmed its rejection of the president's plans outlined last month.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Egypt welcomed the Syrian move.

In Amman, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour said early Monday that Jordan was not familiar with the nature of Syria's response, but added that Mr. Baker would be making a fifth mission if Damascus's reply was positive.

"If the Syrian reply on the American proposals are positive, then it is natural to conclude that Mr. Baker would find numerous questions awaiting him in addition to the subject of Israel's unclear position with regard to the peace process," Dr. Ensour told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Dr. Ensour said that Mr. Baker

(Continued on page 5)

## Iraq: American attack is probable

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi said Monday the "interference" of Western troops in northern Iraq had complicated Kurdish autonomy talks but he expected agreement soon.

"The general trend is positive and I expect that we will reach agreement shortly," Mr. Hammadi told a news conference.

"What has been achieved is the largest part of what has been discussed. Only very limited issues remain."

"We should remember the complications that the matters under discussion witnessed, particularly those complications introduced by the interference of the United States and its allies in the north," he said.

Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) head, Massoud Barzani, one of the two main leaders of a post-Gulf war rebellion, is in Baghdad discussing a peace and autonomy deal with the Iraqi government.

The latest round of the talks, which began in April, took place as the United States and its Western allies pulled out of northern Iraq.

Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi also said Washington was insisting that U.N. sanctions remain in force in the hope of prompting the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein.

"We cannot rule out this probability," Dr. Hammadi told a news conference when asked whether Washington would carry out threats to attack if Iraq did not disclose all its nuclear secrets by July 25.

"The intention and determination to destroy Iraq and to destroy its political system ... still exists," he said. "Such a probability (of a U.S. attack) exists."

President George Bush has accused President Saddam of lying to conceal evidence of a secret Iraqi nuclear weapons programme and Washington has threatened to attack certain military targets if Iraq does not reveal all there is to know about its nuclear programme.

Dr. Hammadi said Iraq, which would defend itself as best it could if attacked, was complying fully with Gulf war ceasefire Resolution 687 under which it must scrap all its weapons of mass destruction.

"There is no doubt regarding this issue

## Li returns home after fence-mending Arab trip

BEIJING (Agencies) — Chinese Premier Li Peng returned home Monday from a tour of six Middle East countries during which he pledged Beijing would help to curb the arms race in the region.

Mr. Li was met at the airport by Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin and diplomats from his hosts in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Syria and Kuwait, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said.

During the trip, part of an effort to boost China's image with the Arab states, Mr. Li said Beijing was willing "to play the biggest possible part in pushing ahead the Middle East peace process."

China last week attended talks in Paris with the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain — aimed at forging a consensus on Middle East arms control.

All five countries are major weapons suppliers to the region.

Mr. Li's trip was dogged by reports that Washington suspects Beijing of selling to Syria advanced missile systems capable of striking targets in Israel.

In Cairo, officials accompanying Mr. Li denied that such sales had taken place and official Chinese press reports said his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad did not touch on military issues.

Despite signs of warming relations between China and Israel, Mr. Li issued a sharp call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"The heroic Syrian people are invincible. All aggressors in the world are doomed to failure," Mr. Li said during a visit to the Golan Heights.

A major part of Mr. Li's mission was to try to persuade leaders in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait that China remained a good friend despite its decision to abstain from a crucial U.N. Security Council vote authorising the use of force to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

Mr. Li officially invited both Saudi king and the Kuwaiti emir to visit Beijing.

Mr. Li also used his trip to take swipe at U.S. President George Bush's vision of a "new world order," which Beijing fears may be code for outright U.S. domination.

Mr. Li's statement with Iran's Islamic leaders said "no policy should lead to domination of any one power over the new order."

## Israeli news papers predict renewed pressure on peace

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli news papers Monday predicted renewed U.S. pressure on the Jewish state after Washington praised Syria's reply to its Middle East peace proposals.

Israel has rejected U.S. compromise proposals to bridge the gap between it and Syria, its arch-foe expected to play a key role in any Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

The long government response came from an official who asked not to be named and played down suggestions the Syrian reply was a breakthrough, saying it contained pre-conditions.

"It is clear they still insist on a role for the United Nations... on making a linkage between the very existence of talks and the question of interpreting 242," he told Reuters, referring to one of two Security Council resolutions specifying an exchange of land for peace.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in a letter to U.S. President George Bush quoted by the official Syrian News Agency, said Sunday his proposals were "positive and balanced" and formed the basis for achieving a comprehensive peace settlement.

## Arafat stops at Cairo airport on way to Libya

CAIRO (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat stopped briefly at Cairo international airport early Monday and met a Palestinian official aboard his aircraft.

"Some people thought that China's influence in the region might have been weakened and some countries there might even harbour complaints against China after the Gulf war," Mr. Qian was quoted as saying by NCNA.

"All those countries Li visited appreciate China's position during the Gulf crisis," he said.

While it hopes for a peaceful settlement to the Middle East issue, Beijing's role is "a limited one," Mr. Qian said.

"The most important thing is that the United States, which has a great influence on Israel, should play a bigger role," he was quoted as saying.

Chinese companies will join American and Canadian companies in putting out oil well fires started during the Gulf war, according to a contract signed Sunday.

The contract was signed at the end of Mr. Li's visit to the emirate, the first ever by a Chinese premier.

The Chinese will start work on the oil wells in mid-August and work on the fires for six months, according to the agreement.

"We are certain that China possesses good technologies for the job," said Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamoud Al Rquba after signing the contract with the Chinese minister of foreign and economic affairs, Li Lanqing.

Six American companies and one Canadian firm are working on putting out and capping, more than 700 burning oil wells.

Mr. Rquba said 213 well fires have been extinguished and he expects most of the fires to be controlled by next March.

"Kuwait is producing 120,000 barrels of oil per day, in addition to half the production of the neutral zone we share with Saudi Arabia," Mr. Rquba said.

The neutral zone produces about 130,000 barrels a day.

According to Mr. Rquba, the Chinese team will be working on part of the Greater Burqan field. The Chinese said about 53 people will be working on the fires when their equipment arrives next month.

Mr. Rquba said negotiations with Iran were in their final stages, and that when contracts are signed with them and the British, French, Soviets and Romanians, about 1,000 people would be working on the fires.

On Saturday a PLO delegation headed by Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, held talks with Foreign Minister Amr Musa. Afterwards, Mr. Abbas said

Mr. Arafat was uninjured. His visits to Jordan and Iraq were the first since the Gulf war.

A senior Jordanian official said early Sunday, "Mr. Arafat has not visited Jordan in a long time and we expect that the talks will be comprehensive and will cover all the recent political and other developments in the region."

Mr. Arafat is standing trial for still another meeting with Mr. Arafat held a year later.

He returned to Tunis last month for two more meetings with Mr. Arafat after staging his hunger strike in Tel Aviv to try to change the law. Mr. Nathan says this legislation is a key obstacle to Middle East peace.

As Mr. Nathan got off a plane from Paris Sunday evening, a police officer took custody of him, police officials said.

An officer approached him and said "you are wanted for questioning," said a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"But I told them I would do it again," he said, speaking by telephone from his Tel Aviv office.

Mr. Nathan, 64, met Mr. Arafat twice in June and in early July in Tunis after ending a 40-day hunger strike in a failed campaign to repeat an Israeli law barring contacts with the PLO.

Israel labels the PLO a "terrorist" organisation bent on its destruction. Mr. Nathan was jailed for 122 days last year for meeting Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Nathan said he would keep trying to convince as many Israelis as possible to meet PLO officials.

A former air force pilot who runs the offshore "Voice of Peace" radio station, Mr. Nathan has devoted 25 years to his private peace drive.

1986 Israeli law bars contacts with PLO officials with a maximum three-year jail sentence.

## Ben Bella urges end to state of emergency

ALGIERS (AP) — Former President Ahmad Ben Bella has urged the government to lift the state of emergency imposed in a bloody crackdown last month on Muslim fundamentalists.

Mr. Ben Bella, the independent country's first president, said that the five-week state of emergency had run its course. "Calm has returned to Algeria," he told a news conference. "There's been a return to normalcy."

Mr. Ben Bella, 74, praised the new prime minister, Sidahmed Ghozali, as being sincere in intentions to work with opposition parties on rules for legislative elections pledged by year's end.

The elections would be Algeria's first multi-party legislative voting since independence from France in 1962.

They had been scheduled for June 27 but were abruptly postponed when President Chadli Benjedid imposed the state of emergency June 5 to end violent demonstrations by the fundamentalists.

Initial clashes and recurrent outbursts of violence between supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and security forces have left more than 50 people dead, mostly recently one person killed outside a mosque.

Mr. Ghozali has refrained from mentioning the FIS in promises to hold a national conference on the country's future.

Mr. Ben Bella, the country's first president and a leader of the 1954-62 war for independence,

urged the government to "lift the state of emergency and to

allow the people to live in peace and tranquility."

He said the government should always be verified.

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## Court overturns decision to retire police officers

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the first case of its kind in Jordan, the Higher Court of Justice has ruled that a decision by the Council of Ministers, last December, retiring police officers is null and void.

The court based its verdict on the fact that the government decision was taken without due consideration to Jordanian laws concerning the Armed Forces and the public security.

The Cabinet had retired several Public Security Department (PSD) officers, including Dr. Ali Adasieh and Dr. Ahmad Ghweiri, on Dec. 25, 1990. The two officers conceded the decision at the Higher Court of Justice.

## IDB to grant the Kingdom \$7.5m grant

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies)

The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is financing imports worth \$172.5 million for 12 member states including Jordan which will get \$7.5 million, according to a bank statement here Monday.

The statement, from the 11-member IDB, also said the bank would give grants worth \$692,000 to two poor Muslim countries: Chad and Somalia.

According to the statement, the grant to Jordan, as well as those to Uganda, which will receive \$5 million and Lebanon to receive \$1 million, will be used

to finance imports of crude oil from IDB member states.

It said Algeria would get \$13 million to finance the import of copper, aluminium, petrochemical products and lead.

Pakistan will receive \$32 million to finance imports of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, worth \$22 million, and palm oil from Malaysia, worth \$10 million.

Bangladesh will get \$19 million to finance imports of crude oil from Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates, worth \$10 million, and cotton from Sudan or Pakistan, worth \$9 million.

## Media congratulates Petra on anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief editors of the local Jordanian dailies Monday congratulated the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on its 22nd anniversary, and suggested that the agency give more attention to cultural activities rather than economic and political issues.

Petra has no doubt contributed to the development of the Jordanian media in Jordan, despite its limited means, said Chief Editor of Al Ra'i daily Mahmoud Al Kayed.

He said that the national news agency had covered various fields of development in the Kingdom and its staff had been active in the

local press.

Editor of Al Dustour daily Mahmoud Al Sharif wished the agency success in its endeavour and said that Petra needed to give more attention to cultural activities in addition to the socio-economic and political issues.

Jordan Press Association (JPA) President Hashem Khreisat demanded that Petra staff be offered the chance to develop their talents and incentives and privileges similar to those members of other professions in Jordan. He voiced appreciation to the Petra staff for their efforts to cover socio-economic issues of concern to the public.

## Minister visits scouts camp

JERASH (Petra) — Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat has visited the Dibbin scouts camp and inspected the various activities by the participants.

A total of 300 girl guides taking part in the camp's activities, organised by the Ministry of Education, are involved in week-long activities which include workshops on auto-mechanic repair, electricity, first aid and hair dressing among others.

Addressing the participants, the minister said that extracurricular activities are considered a basic part of the education process and there is no doubt that they will be developed in coordination between the Ministry of Education and other concerned public and private organisations.

The scouting movement in Jordan includes national education and various activities by scouts and girl guides who can offer useful service to the country and

to themselves. Dr. Dahiyat said. The minister added that the scouts movement is one of the noblest organisations since it gives real education to the youth to employ high morals and ethics in their daily practices.

The minister inspected the workshops at the camp and was briefed on other activities.

In reply to questions by the girl guides, Dr. Dahiyat said that his ministry will be giving more attention to the more talented students in school over the coming years. He also stressed the need for interaction between the school and the home to make the educational process a success.

The minister said that the scouting movement will also be given due consideration over the coming years and it will be encouraged in schools, which should be able to organise scouting camps for young men and women.

## Avalanche closes road

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Monday part of Al Adasiyah road, near the children's forest, is currently

closed because of an avalanche. The sources said travellers can use Al Aridah-Wadi Shu'ab road as a substitute road.

## Dahabra wins gliding competition

By Muneem Falakoury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and in association with Munther Halasa Establishment, a reception was held Saturday at Amman Airport to celebrate the opening of the summer gliding season organised by the Royal Jordanian Gliding Club.

Bashar Salem Dahabra, managing director of Unitech was awarded the No. 1 trophy for winning the first soaring competition. His record was 38 minutes of solo gliding. He was followed by Panos Fazli and Mashhour Nassar in third place, scoring nine and eight minutes respectively.

A photograph of Bashar Dahabra, managing director of Unitech, was awarded the No. 1 trophy for winning the first soaring competition. His record was 38 minutes of solo gliding. He was followed by Panos Fazli and Mashhour Nassar in third place, scoring nine and eight minutes respectively.



SEMINAR REVIEWS MEDICAL RESEARCH: The University of Jordan Monday held its 11th scientific day during which four sessions were held to review 20 University's vice president Misleh Tarawneh, Dean of Scientific Research Husman Ghassis and Mohammad Al

Khatib, who served as rapporteur to the Scientific Research Committee, addressed the session. Dr. Tarawneh presented a number of university staff with awards and announced the promotion of four of them to the position of professor.

## Doctors' committee satisfied with government's efforts in health field

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government

would have a positive impact on the doctors' performance, to be reflected on the general health services.

Last week, doctors and specialists working for the Health Ministry at hospitals and health centres received Monday a warm welcome from a committee representing government doctors in Jordan.

What the government announced about improvements is in full harmony with the aspirations of the government doctors, especially introducing improvements to doctors' status and ensuring fairness in rewarding doctors for their efforts, the committee said in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Committee representatives, who visited Petra headquarters, said they appreciated and thanked the government for its efforts to meet doctors' demands and for giving them priority over other issues.

They said that the government's plans had been encouraging to the doctors and the move

improve work at hospitals and health centres in the rural and badia regions and would pave the way for the application of a comprehensive health insurance plan for all citizens. The prime minister promised to offer training to staff at hospitals and health centres and financial incentives in order to improve services.

In its statement to Petra, the doctors' committee said that the government had accepted their demands and promised to look into the pay scale. They said they were especially satisfied with the pledge that equality would prevail among doctors and that moral and financial incentives would be offered to them.

The committee, which was formed a month ago, submitted demands for better pay and improvements to working conditions to the health minister who has already embarked on tours of various hospitals and health centres to get a first hand information on the situation.

## Road project nears completion; engineers offered special training

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Surour Monday inspected work on the Naour-Dead Sea road and was briefed on the third and fourth stages of the project currently being implemented by the ministry.

Obstacles impeding work on the project were discussed and intensified efforts were demanded by the minister.

Work on the fourth stage of the project, which began in April 1988, to build a stretch of 18.2 kilometres at the cost of JD 8.5 million, is only 20 per cent completed.

The ministry is to set up a special committee to inspect the work before the road is formally announced to be completed.

Work on the third stage of the project, which began early last year to build a stretch of 7.6

kilometres at the cost of JD 8.5 million, is only 20 per cent completed.

The first two stages of the four-stage project were completed earlier. The whole project, which is being implemented with partial financing from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will facilitate the flow of traffic on the Amman-Jordan Valley route, help speed up the transportation of agricultural products and stimulate the tourism industry.

In another development, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing announced Monday that it is implementing a training programme for engineers and technicians in quality control and laboratory testing of various materials used in the construction

business.

A statement said that the programme was divided into stages, and the participants would have theoretical as well as practical training. After completing the programme they will be awarded diplomas.

The first stage lasts for two to three months during which the participants are lectured. The second stage includes practical experiments under the supervision of experts, while the third stage involves evaluation of the engineers' work.

According to the statement, ministry departments in the provinces as well as the ministry itself are offering the engineers the chance to obtain training in this field. Thirty engineers have completed the programme.

## Committee discusses agricultural issues, rescheduling farmers' debts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ministerial economic committee held its first meeting Monday to review agricultural matters and rescheduling of farmers' debts.

A statement said that the committee, chaired by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh, discussed a recommendation by Minister of Agriculture Subhi Al Qasem about a loan to be given to the Jordanian Poultry Marketing Company. It recommended that the Cabinet approve a JD 500,000 loan to the company, with government guarantees, to enable it to stabilise poultry prices for producers and consumers.

Farmers' debts were also discussed by the committee, which was set up by the present government of Taher Masri, but no decision or recommendation was disclosed.

The committee has, however, decided to ask the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) to supply it with a detailed list of small farmers, especially those whose farms sustained damage from drought or floods, so that further studies can be conducted on the process of rescheduling debts.

In his government policy statement to Parliament last week, Mr. Masri said that the government had plans to deal with problems plaguing the country's agricultural sector. He said water shortages, water pollution, debts on small farms and marketing of agricultural produce will all be addressed.

The prime minister said that the government planned to draw up an integrated agricultural strategy aimed at creating a proper climate for farming. The strategy will also develop water resources, boost agricultural production and strive to open new markets abroad.

## Kingdom prepares to mark 40th anniversary of the death of King Abdullah

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday will mark the 40th anniversary of the death of King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who fell martyr while performing prayers at Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem in 1951.

In memory of the late King, Minister of Culture and Information Khaled Al Karaki set up a committee to present to the Jordanian public a special programme about the King's services to his people and efforts to serve the Arab nation at large.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Information, the committee is made up of the directors of the Jordan News Agency, Petra; the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation; the secretary general of the Ministry of Culture and Information; the advisor to the minister of culture and the director of Arabic programmes at Radio Jordan.

The statement said that the programme would include a number of literary, artistic and cultural events to shed light on the life and work of the late king in various fields.

King Abdullah played a major role in the Arab liberation movement that began in the early 20th century. In 1916, when the Great Arab Revolt was launched by his father, Sharif Hussein Ben Ali of Mecca, the young prince led the Arab army in battle against the Ottoman garrison in Taif, Saudi Arabia and headed the army that proceeded to the east to liberate Medina.

King Abdullah also played a major role in the political arena and took part in the talks held between his father and the allied armies.

When the French occupied Damascus in 1921, the young prince came to Ma'an, where the historical event of establishing

the Emirate of Trans-Jordan took place.

From the very day he was proclaimed King, the Arab leader defended the Arab identity of Palestine and sought to rally Arab ranks and coordinate Arab stands to preserve unity of the Arab soil, destiny and objectives.

King Abdullah led the Arab armies in the struggle to save Palestine from Zionist occupation following the withdrawal of British mandate forces from Palestine in 1948. The Jordanian army, despite its limited number and resources, succeeded in liberating Al Aqsa Mosque, Arab Jerusalem and the entire West Bank from Israeli occupation.

In 1950, King Abdullah responded to the call by Palestinian leaders to unify the East and West Banks and announced the unity of the two banks in April 1950.

## Interpol offices around the world asked to apprehend Petra Bank case suspect

By Ahmad Kreishan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Interpol office at the Public Security Department (PSD) has requested Interpol offices around the world to apprehend Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, former chairman of the board of directors of the now defunct Petra Bank.

Office sources said that the cables sent out to these offices requested that Dr. Chalabi be turned over to the concerned Jordanian authorities so that he can stand trial for embezzlement, abuse of trust, forgery and for fleeing the country.

Court sources said the request was issued after none of the Chalabi family members responded to summonses to appear before the liquidation committee.

The cases involve charges of embezzlement of depositors' funds and speculation with the Jordanian currency and shares.

Dr. Chalabi, an Iraqi born banker, left Jordan in August 1989, a few days after the Economic Security Committee ordered the take over of the financially troubled Petra Bank as well as the Jordan Gulf Bank.

Court sources said that the court had decided to postpone examining the cases of the other defendants in the Petra Bank case until September because of the judges' summer holiday.

The official sources, said the Military Court had referred a number of cases to the prosecutor general pending the creation of the projected state security court.

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## Bloc with murky aims?

THE FORMATION of the 13-member Constitution Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Sunday, on the eve of the House's confidence session, can tip the scale in favour of the government or contribute to its downfall. If, as was speculated throughout yesterday, the group of 13 has been formed purely to oppose the cabinet, then with the solid votes of the Muslim Brotherhood and their sympathisers the chances of Mr. Masri winning confidence are indeed slim. Jordan would have its first political crisis since 1964, when the House downed the government of Prime Minister Samir Rifai and Parliament was subsequently dissolved.

Despite the Brotherhood's genuine ideological differences with the government, it has become increasingly clear that if this government is going to fall it will not be for ideological or political reasons alone but for personal reasons and vendettas as well. It will have to be noted that this new Constitution Bloc groups pro-establishment figures who served in the pre-democracy era and some of them share in the responsibility for many of the country's economic and political ills. If they decide now that this government is not theirs and they want to oppose it for no reason other than that they were not included in it, then they would open the door for all kinds of accusations against them. If they and like-minded people cannot contribute to solving the country's problems or to enhancing democracy as they can all too easily do by giving this clean and honest government the benefit of the doubt, then it would be fair to say that they themselves should not have been given the chance to be members of the government in the first place. It would be indeed tragic if this group of people voted the Masri team out simply because many years of ministerial posts were not enough to quench their thirst for power. Mr. Masri and his team clearly understand the Muslim Brotherhood's decision to oppose them as being justified on the grounds that the Brotherhood represents something different from what this government stands for. But in this vein it is only legitimate to ask whether the leadership and members of the Constitution Bloc are so separated from the government by ideological grounds as to stand on the side of the Brotherhood on this one. Are they serious politicians or a bunch of opportunists? Are they seeking the interests of the country or just running after ministerial posts? Might it not be a good idea for Mr. Masri to reshuffle his cabinet, enlarge it to include 41 deputies so that all those parliamentarians who want to cling to power for ever can join the government and give it their votes?

We hope reason will prevail amongst the thirteen, and if they have a difference with the government to spell it out.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN VIEW of the open U.S. threats to Iraq, it seems that Washington is rallying Paris, London and the Zionist enemy behind it in an open defiance of the Arab World, with the aim of humiliating the Arabs and depriving them of the means to defend themselves from future Israeli aggressions, said Al Ra's! Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that Washington and its allies were driven by their hatred for the Arabs to launch a fresh aggression on Iraq based on falsehoods and a distortion of all values and principles and in flagrant violation of international legitimacy. The paper noted that the U.S. is intent on starving the Iraqi people and bent on evil means of destroying their will of resistance so as to serve the interests of world Zionism. The paper lamented the Arab World's silence over the open threats to their sister country and over the Arab League's passive attitude. It said no voice has risen from the non-aligned countries or the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in defence of Iraq and its people who are now facing a new form of injustice and aggression. What the Arabs are facing now, the paper said, is not the implementation of international legitimacy, the liberation of Kuwait or even the destruction of Iraq, but rather a total humiliation of the Arab Nation.

Al Dostour daily said that Iraq had done well in calling for an urgent meeting by the Arab foreign ministers in order to examine the present U.S. threats to the Iraqi people. Although we believe that the Iraqi call will fall on deaf Arab ears, yet it was useful to make the call to the Arab countries represented by their Arab League in Cairo which has so far done nothing to help the Iraqis confront the dangers and the acts of aggression coming from the United States and its allies, the paper noted. The Iraqis, as do many Arabs, realise that most of the Arab regimes are serving the interests of the colonial powers led by the United States and that some of these regimes are tacitly or openly instigating Washington to launch a fresh aggression on Iraq, the paper said. It is shameful on the part of the Arab countries to remain silent in view of the American threats to their Iraqi brothers and it is painful to see other countries of the world totally falling under the influence of the U.S., said the paper. We believe that Iraq is right and on the right course to remind the Arab countries of their duty and of the need to confront the American onslaught, the paper said. The paper voiced its strong condemnation of the Arab regimes which are silent about or condoning the aggression of the Western alliance against Iraq and its people.

## Syria puts squeeze on Israel by welcoming Bush plan

By John Fullerton  
Reuters

CAIRO, — Syria, once shunned by the West as an extremist bent on destroying the Jewish state, has turned the tables on Israel by accepting compromise U.S. peace proposals rejected by Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's long-awaited response was well timed to gain world attention, diplomats said.

It came on the eve of the summit in London on Monday of the world's leading industrial nations which have been pressing Israel to accept a land-for-peace compromise.

They said that the Group of Seven leaders and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev they will meet later, were bound to acknowledge the Syrian move as a breakthrough that offered a chance to end more than four decades of Middle East conflict.

"Syria has made important concessions," said Egyptian political commentator Tahseen

Bashir. "We are happy, but not exuberant ... There are still lots of 'ifs' and 'buts'."

Mr. Assad was quoted by the official Syrian news agency SANA as telling Mr. Bush in a letter on Sunday night that his initiative was "positive and balanced."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker praised the response as positive, saying it had moved Syria's willingness to enter direct peace talks with Israel more than any time in the past.

Mr. Assad expressed satisfaction that Mr. Bush had given special importance to a United Nations role in proposed peace talks.

Israel has already rejected Mr. Bush's ideas, refusing any U.N. role and dismissing calls for the Jewish state to trade Arab territories occupied since the 1967 war for peace.

Diplomatic sources in the region said Mr. Assad last week told his partners in Syria's ruling National Progressive Front that Mr. Bush's

letter had included the following:

— A commitment to U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, embodying the principle of trading Israeli-occupied land for peace.

— Rejection of Israel's annexation of Syria's Golan Heights.

— Setting up a peace conference under U.S.-Soviet auspices, with European involvement and in the presence of a U.N. representative.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

— Joint representation of Palestinians and Jordanians in a delegation that could include leaders from the occupied territories.

— The possible reconvening of the conference to review progress in bilateral talks between the Israelis and Arabs after the opening conference session.

Although Mr. Bush had waited over a month for Mr. Assad's reply, Arab press

analysts said it came as no surprise.

"This has been carefully prepared, with the Egyptians, Syrians and Jordanians working closely together," said one Arab diplomat. The PLO had also been consulted, he added.

Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, told reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo on Sunday that they had discussed a proposed meeting of officials from Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the PLO to work out a joint stand ahead of any peace conference.

In Amman on Sunday, Mr. Arafat ridiculed Washington's peace efforts as simply buying Israel time to "swallow" Arab

territories.

"Arafat's remarks are unfortunate but should not be taken at face value," the Arab diplomat said. "He was on his way to Libya and we must expect him to make the kind of noises his Libyan hosts expect of him."

One of Mr. Arafat's prominent supporters in the West Bank, Radwan Abu Ayyash,

expressed optimism over the Syrian reaction and said: "The ball is now in Israel's court."

The PLO's fortunes have been at a low ebb since it failed to condemn outright Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year.

Mahmoud Abbas, member of the PLO executive committee, told reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo on Sunday that they had discussed a proposed meeting of officials from Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the PLO to work out a joint stand ahead of any peace conference.

But the big question, Mr. Bashir said, was whether a peace conference would lead anywhere.

Is Mr. Shamir willing to retreat in the face of international opinion and trade Israel's occupied territories for a lasting peace, he asked.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is already at odds with

Washington over its encouragement of Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Political analysts said the Syrian response appeared to mark an important concession on the part of Damascus to accept of direct talks with Israel, something long rejected by most Arabs.

Mr. Assad's response indicated he was also willing to accept a conference not directly under U.N. auspices, and that he was prepared to drop Arab demands for direct PLO participation, they said.

But the big question, Mr. Bashir said, was whether a peace conference would lead anywhere.

Is Mr. Shamir willing to retreat in the face of international opinion and trade Israel's occupied territories for a lasting peace, he asked.

Mr. Shamir has repeatedly vowed to hold on to all Arab land seized in the 1967 war.

## 'Emperor' wants to restore old order

By Paul Fabra

THOSE who elected François Mitterrand probably did not expect that in the weeks and months following the pomp and ceremony of the French Revolution bicentennial celebrations, the President of the Republic would try and turn himself into the Metternich of modern Europe.

It all happened after the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. It was as if, while waiting to see how things would turn out, the Elysée Palace set itself the objective of maintaining the old international order.

The most notable example of this was the manner in which French officialdom missed the boat with German reunification.

A series of gestures which appeared, at first, to be spectacular and significant were soon revealed to be vain attempts to avoid the inevitable.

There was the Kiev visit in December 1989, swiftly followed by the visit to the East German leaders under siege. It is implicitly admitted in high places that these moves were unwise, although those in power flattered themselves that there were no negative consequences.

But it is becoming harder and harder to disguise the fact that this optimistic version of events does not coincide with reality. Although they are not immediately visible, the consequences of the French presidential attitude were and continue to be important. One of these is to remove any real substance from the implicit objective of political union, a Europe allied to but independent of the United States.

It is not only the ancient Germanic adversary whose way France is initially trying to block. France continues to show incomprehension in the face of the aspirations of old friends like Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary who would like to join the European Community. As far as Paris is concerned, they are throwing themselves against a brick wall.

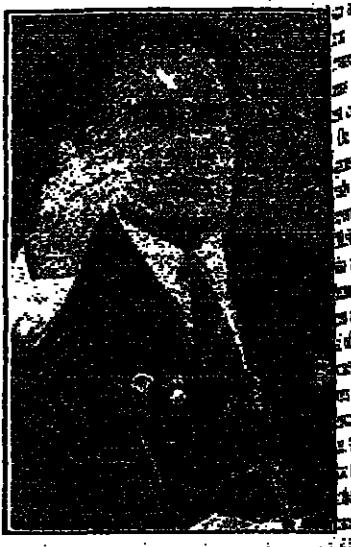
On the eve of a meeting President Mitterrand initiated in June in Prague under the inviting name of Assizes of the Confederation, he claimed "it would need dozens and dozens of years," in other words, an eternity, before these nations could find their place in the Brussels club.

His host, President Václav Havel, rejected out of hand the French concept of "confederation," leading Mr. Mitterrand to swallow the proposals to which he was most dearly attached.

Raymond Aron once reproached Valéry Giscard d'Estaing for lacking a tragic sense of history. Could this same remark hold true for the man who trusted Brezhnev? Unless, of course, the current head of the French state is secretly nurturing the dream (less beautiful than that of the poet) of "bringing back the old order."

How can one explain the presidential attitude in any other way? It is all happening as though the Elysée had been acting — at least in the face of French public opinion — in the light of ideas unquestionably received by the public since the de Gaulle era.

To prime the economic development pump, the former communist countries need outlets for their products more than credits from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The treaties of association now being negotiated have promised them limited access to our markets in 10 years' time. They may be suffocated by them.



The other urgent need is for foreign investment. Capital will only come if the principle of membership of the EC within a reasonable time frame is proclaimed within a treaty.

The "dilution" argument of the EC is specious. Before trying to perpetuate the structure of the EC, it made strenuous efforts to retain a Community of Six, excluding Britain. General de Gaulle was opposed to the entry of a rich country which made no secret of its intention to change the Community from within. Mr. Mitterrand wants to make the countries impoverished by 45 years of Marxism wait indefinitely for admission.

What is more, this status quo leaves to others, notably the Americans, the exclusive role of recourse and the need to create an acceptable destiny for Europe.

Mr. Mitterrand had hardly returned from Kiev when the U.S. Secretary of State made his first speech, one which was both prophetic and policy-making, in Berlin. It was here that James Baker declared on Dec. 12, 1989, that a unified Germany ought to be a member of NATO. Just as the American proposals were a taste of the future, so first French reactions soon revealed themselves to be of such a nature as to create suspicion in Europe.

The French are still preoccupied by a fear of upsetting the Soviets. Paris would have not balked at Poland's acceptance of the offer which Moscow made to it of a security pact. Without improvement in Saudi-Iranian relations, such a change in the GCC position would have been unlikely.

Despite significant gains, Iran's diplomacy has not been fully successful, and the stalemate in relations with the U.S. persists. This is because domestically there is greater resistance in Iran to efforts to improve ties with the United States than with Europe, and the U.S. remains unwilling to make even gestures of reconciliation towards Iran until Iran meets all U.S. demands, including obtaining the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

Thus, despite Iran's neutrality in the Gulf war, its efforts to improve ties with U.S. regional allies and its reception of the Kurds, the U.S. continues to impose a total trade ban on Iran and refuses to unfreeze even a portion of Iran's assets held in the U.S. This U.S. attitude makes it much more difficult for President Rafsanjani to argue for improved relations with Washington.

To sum up, three years after Ayatollah Khomeini's death, Iran, rather than being on the brink of collapse, stands at a crucial crossroads. If the positive trends succeed, Iran can look with optimism towards a period of economic reconstruction, national reconciliation and international rehabilitation. Its policy towards the Kurds was particularly generous given that it already hosted over two million refugees from Afghanistan and more than 500,000 from Iraq.

Moreover, despite rumours that Iran instigated Shi'ite rebellion in southern Iraq and despite considerable domestic pressure for Iran to intervene on behalf of the Shi'ite there, Iran remained essentially aloof from Iraq's internal disturbances. Its policy which coupled with more active diplomacy, helped it improve its relations with the U.S. and the rest of the world.

But if the internal bickering continues and recent reforms remain unfulfilled, Iran faces an uncertain future and some of the pessimistic predictions made at the time of Imam Khomeini's death may yet come to pass. — Middle East International, London

"With the exception of the most implacable of the Islamic regime's opponents, most Iranian expatriates would like to either return to their country or establish much closer cooperative relations. Most of them realise that Iran's best hope lies in the moderation and maturation of the current regime and ultimately in the economic and political opening up of Iranian society. The alternative would most likely be a sustained period of instability which would deepen Iran's economic and political malaise."

### Religion and nationalism

Other positive developments have included the beginning of a new synthesis between the Islamic and Iranian dimensions of Iran's culture and history. In the last century, there has been a growing and highly destructive dichotomy between the Islamic and nationalist poles of Iran's culture. The extreme nationalist policies of the Pahlavi era downplayed the significance of the Islamic element in Iran's cultural development and overly glorified the pre-Islamic era. During the last decade, the revolutionary government followed an equally extreme policy, vilifying Iran's pre-Islamic culture. The result of both policies was fragmentation of Iranian society and the undermining of national unity.

Now there seems to be a growing understanding about the vital place of both religion and nationalism in Iranian culture. There is also a recognition of the influence of Iran and pre-Islamic Iranian traditions and philosophies on the development of Islamic civilisation as well as the tremendous role played by Islam in Iran's cultural flourishing. As a

Nor has the bureaucracy beyond the top echelons, been responsive to the reformist tone of the administration. Indeed, many bureaucrats, revolutionary committee members and others, who without any professional qualifications have reaped large financial and other benefits, have been resisting and sabotaging reforms. Consequently, despite these efforts, there has not been a significant rebound in the economy. The radicals, including some prominent figures, are also either lukewarm or openly hostile to President Rafsanjani's policy of national reconciliation and his efforts to entice the expatriate industrialists, technocrats and others back home.

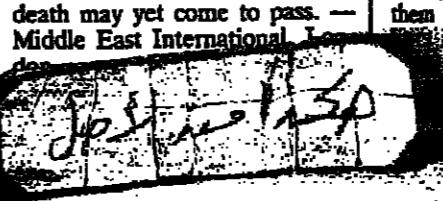
Thus every positive statement by President Rafsanjani and his colleagues is followed by complaints about the dilution of revolutionary spirit and harsh warnings against the infiltration of the corrupt values of pre-revolutionary days. As a result, there has not yet been any significant influx of expatriate capital or

against Iraq, and at the same time opposing the long-term presence of foreign forces in the region.

Iran's policy of neutrality gained considerable international credit. Its support for Kuwait's sovereignty helped it with the Gulf Arabs. Its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis until the last minute in order to save Iraq from destruction helped it with many other Arabs and Muslims. Iran's open door policy towards Kurdish and Shi'ite refugees also helped it internationally. Its policy towards the Kurds was particularly generous given that it already hosted over two million refugees from Afghanistan and more than 500,000 from Iraq.

Moreover, despite rumours that Iran instigated Shi'ite rebellion in southern Iraq and despite considerable domestic pressure for Iran to intervene on behalf of the Shi'ite there, Iran remained essentially aloof from Iraq's internal disturbances. Its policy which coupled with more active diplomacy, helped it improve its relations with the U.S. and the rest of the world.

But if the internal bickering continues and recent reforms remain unfulfilled, Iran faces an uncertain future and some of the pessimistic predictions made at the time of Imam Khomeini's death may yet come to pass. — Middle East International, London



• Paul Fabra is a leader writer for *Le Monde*. His article is reprinted from *The Guardian*.

## King: No regrets over position towards Gulf crisis

(Continued from page 1)

On communications with President Saddam in the past months, the King said: "We haven't talked even on the telephone since the first few days of his occupation of Kuwait. From time to time an Iraqi official passes by. I was very frank in expressing my view of the situation to them. But no, we have not had any communications."

On the course he would recommend that the U.N. and the U.S. take with regard to Iraq, the King said: "It is very difficult to see what advice I might give would make any difference. It seems to be that lines are set and people are progressing along them. But I would like to do everything I can to ensure Iraq's integrity and to see that Iraq's future in terms of the rights of its people are given a chance. I think that they should resolve their own problems internally within the context of a dialogue."

"We have a new national political charter here. It took nine months. We had people from the extreme right and the extreme left getting to know each other, discussing and debating. What they produced has put us on the threshold in our political life of having political parties. I don't believe the situation in Iraq is going along these lines. I am for national reconciliation between all the parties and people of Iraq itself, and all the people of Iraq who are outside. I am for freedom and democracy. This is obviously something that concerns them, but it concerns the rest of the world as well."

On the international sanctions against Iraq, the King said: "I really think that when we have reports that over 100,000, maybe 150,000 kids under the age of five will die within two months because of malnutrition, sickness and disease, it is a shame to all of us in this world not to do something about it. There are ways and means by which to ensure that whatever their needs are, they get to the people. I am sure that anybody who is looking at the problem with any degree of concern anywhere in the world will feel the same way. There is a difference in having a quarrel with a government, or with a system. But the people should not be involved. They paid a lot. Eight years of war with Iran, and now this."

On relations with the Gulf states, he said: "They have deteriorated with a number of Gulf states with the exception of the Sultanate of Oman. We had excellent relations with Oman throughout. I am very proud and

very happy for that. Long before the Gulf crisis I had a chance to meet with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and hear his plans for progress and democracy in his country. As far as the rest are concerned, I think they were charged up with a lot of wrong information. It is very difficult for me to understand what has happened so far. Our view is that sooner or later the truth will come up and things will change. And they will. There is no doubt about that. Because whatever premise they base their relations with us on, we are still one Arab family."

On communications with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak lately, the King said: "We are in normal contact from time to time. I believe personally that it is vital for our people to get in touch with each other so there can be a degree of coordination and normalization of relations. I believe that somehow the opportunity will arise at some point for leaders of this region to sit face to face. In fact I welcome it. And I have sought it so that the air can be cleared."

The Middle East peace process, the King said: "I think there is a bit more knowledge of what the difficulties are. I hope there is a determination to continue to try to resolve them. I believe that the chances won't be with us very long before there will be an acceleration towards extremism as a result of the Gulf war and the suffering of people. We have been as positive as we could be. Essentially we are agreed that there should be two tracks — one a Palestinian-Israeli track, the other an Arab-Israeli track, and that they should meet at the end."

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy told parliament Monday of Mr. Baker's plans.

"Mr. Baker is supposed to arrive in Israel early next week, according to an announcement I received," Mr. Levy said.

It would be the U.S. secretary's first trip to the region since May.

Earlier, Mr. Bush called the Syrian statement "a good response from President (Hafez) Al-Assad."

"We're analysing the details but it's very positive," he told reporters in London.

Mr. Baker said Sunday the Syrian response had moved Damascus "further than they have been willing to move in any peace process efforts that I'm aware of before."

Mr. Baker made four trips in the aftermath of the Gulf war which ended in February, the most recent in late May.

But his mediation attempt bogged down when Israel and Syria disagreed on whether the United Nations should take part in the peace conference and whether it should have the power to reconvene after an opening session.

Mr. Bush wrote to Israel and Syria in early June outlining compromise proposals under which the U.N. would send a non-speaking observer to the conference which could be reconvened with the approval of all its participants.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejected both proposals. Details of Mr. Assad's reply have not been published but the assumption is that he has accepted the Bush proposals, at least conditionally.

If so, the main aim of a new Baker mission would be to put heavy pressure on Israel to offer its own concessions.

Mr. Baker said that a cursory first reading of a long letter from Mr. Assad suggested that the Syrian reply did not appear to set conditions for the acceptance of U.S. proposal.

But he said he wanted to read the letter more closely and noted that there were "some suggestions that we would want to probe and see if they are in any way conditional."

Mr. Fizwater said that Syria's letter "represents real movement in the search for peace, and it goes well beyond any previous position taken by Syria."

body who is sitting outside the occupied territories pontificating about nationalism matters from a position of comfort.

"I have said time and again that there has to be quiet diplomacy.

There has to be a mobilisation of all the people of good will who can contribute something positive to educating the Israelis out of their fortress mentality and to the meaning of peace. To educating the Palestinians of what peace means. To educating the Arabs. And to creating the bridges that are needed. I don't know whether a shock every now and then is what is needed. I think we need to get people everywhere to act. We need Europe. We need people who

have access to every party to this conflict. We are ready, willing and hopeful. We believe in a comprehensive settlement. It can't be just between Jordan and Israel. Jordan cannot be Palestine."

He stressed that the peace process

"cannot go forward without the Palestinians involved in resolving their own problems. And even then, my preference is that everybody has to be involved. Because everybody has a share, everybody has an interest, and of course Syria does. But this question has been put to us time and again: Are you tied to Syria's position? We are not tied to anybody's position. We are masters of our own destiny, and we will decide

what we believe is right."

"I believe it is our last chance (for peace). We don't have much time.

According to some estimates, the Israelis now occupy 65 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza. More resources are likely to be provided later on."

Asked what the alternative to peace was and whether war was inevitable, the King said: "If there is no peace, things cannot remain the way they are. You can't tackle some of the really serious problems we face except in a context of peace. Things that affect people such as water, the economy, progress, people settling down. You can't tackle extremism. This madness will bring about even

tual disaster."

## Iraqis face sanctions catastrophe

(Continued from page 1)

the humanitarian purposes of imports financed by oil sales," the report said.

It said it was "imperative" that the needs of Iraq's 18 million people be met urgently and called for rapid agreement on monitoring mechanisms.

A foreword to the report, signed by Prince Sadruddin, said:

"We are neither crying wolf nor playing politics. But it is evident that for large numbers of the people of Iraq, every passing month brings closer the brink of calamity."

Several members of the delegation that helped compile the report said they expected the Sanctions Committee to make any easing of sanctions conditional upon Baghdad's complete cooperation with U.N. experts inspecting Iraqi nuclear equipment under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire agreement.

A U.N. source, who asked not to be named, said the timing of the report was "unfortunate."

He said Washington was unlikely to show any sympathy towards the suffering of Iraqi civilians while at the same time threatening a military strike against alleged nuclear weapons facilities.

Observers point to the battle

## Fate of cabinet in balance

(Continued from page 1)

over the speakership of the House which has borne unlikely alliances among the parliamentary blocs before as an instrumental factor in the formation of the Constitution Bloc.

Mr. Hindawi lost the competition for the seat against Deput Suleiman Arar in the first regular session of the House in November 1989. Mr. Hindawi then allied his now-defunct Nationalist Bloc with the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the second regular session of the House in November.

Observers say that Mr. Hindawi's interest at this time is to ensure an alliance in the House which would guarantee him the speakership seat in the next regular session of the House in November.

The political map of the House, as of Monday evening, was divided into six parliamentary blocs:

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc (23 members); The National Bloc (17); The Constitution Bloc (13); The Liberal Bloc (5); The Democratic Bloc (9); The Independent Islamic Bloc (6); and Independents (7).

## Iraq: U.S. attack probable

(Continued from page 1)

The United States and other members of the Security Council he added, had a separate political plan to destroy Iraq to leave the way clear for Israel to dominate the Middle East.

At his news conference Dr. Hammadi accused Western nations, the United States in particular, of using "fabricated pretexts to launch a premeditated attack" on Iraq despite its willingness to cooperate fully with U.N. inspectors seeking access to its nuclear development sites.

He said that the U.S. objective was the destruction of Iraq and its political system, the restoration of Western dominance in the region and the defence of Israel. "Iraq's technical and military capabilities are known and we will defend ourselves to the best of our capabilities, be they great or small," he added.

Iraq has released a new, more extensive list describing its nuclear programme.

Sources close to a U.N. team that has been trying to get a complete picture of the Iraqi programme said the list, which the Baghdad provided Sunday, was the most detailed yet offered.

But the head of the 37-member U.N. team would not say whether the list satisfied all demands made by the United Nations in Resolution 687.

On Monday, Britain joined France and the United States in saying it was prepared to use force to stop Iraq from acquiring nuclear weapons.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in London the Group of Seven leading industrial nations all agreed "that one way or another we are going to prevent Iraq becoming another nuclear power."

Asked in an interview with Britain's Independent Television Network, "even if that means providing forces?" Mr. Hurd replied, "Yes."

Dr. Hammadi said that Mr. Bush's talk of attacking Iraq and the "unusual" diplomatic language he used suggested that Washington was working according to a premeditated plan.

## U.S.-Soviet pact likely

(Continued from page 1)

military spending and dispute over islands occupied by Moscow since World War II.

British Prime Minister John Major, the summit host, greeted each leader on a red carpet as they arrived one by one in limousines at tightly guarded Lancaster House. Mr. Kohl arrived first at the 19th century mansion in central London, followed by President Bush.

French President Francois Mitterrand arrived at midday Monday to join the other leaders who already were in London, holding preliminary meetings among themselves.

Mr. Kohl met with Mr. Bush, then with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

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# Sports

## World Student Games opens

### Texan upsets world champion Chinese swimmer in 100m heat

**SHEFFIELD**, England (Agence) — Texan swimmer Julie Sommer upset world 50-metre champion Yong Zhuang of China Monday to win her 100-metre freestyle heat at the 16th World Student Games.

Zhuang was ahead at the turn but Sommer produced a fast second length to race past her and also American compatriot Dyne Burrell. Who finished third.

All three made the final later Monday. But the fastest time of the heats went to Canadian Andrea Nugent, who equalled her best time of the year — 57.43 seconds.

Sommer, who swims for Texas Aquatics, finished in 57.87 seconds, 0.16 ahead of Zhuang, who has clocked the world's third fastest time of 55.65 for the 100 metre this year.

The women's 100-metre freestylers were to receive the first swimming medals of the games, which went into full swing Monday.

Some 5,500 competitors from 111 countries have arrived for the 12-day event, which embraces 11 sports — swimming, gymnastics, track and field, diving, basketball, volleyball, water polo, field hockey, soccer, fencing and tennis.

China's Li Lin, world champion in both 200 metre and 400 medleys, eased through as the fastest qualifier in a time of four minutes, 50.65 seconds. That was 3.85 seconds quicker than Alicia Peczak of Poland, who won her heat in 4:54.50.

Patricia Noall of Canada and Sheila Taormina of the United States qualified for Monday's final as third and fourth fastest.

The men's 100 metre breaststroke saw Americans Brian Palmer, of the Cal-Irvine Club, and Leif Engstrom Heg, Las Vegas

qualify at the top of the list.

Their countryman, Joshua Davis, will head the finalists in the men's 200 metre freestyle after completing his heat in 1:51.01, just 0.12 over his personal best time.

Meanwhile, World Student Games officials have apologised to Yugoslavia after their 16-strong delegation missed Sunday night's opening ceremony because of a misunderstanding.

The Yugoslavs were waiting their turn to enter the arena only to be told they were not expected and there was no flag or banner for them to march behind.

Officials urged them to parade around the stadium anyway, but when they refused to march without a flag and after a brief period the unhappy squad left for the athletes' village.

Last week it was confirmed Yugoslavia had pulled out of all the team events although individuals would be taking part. But officials responsible for the opening ceremony understood no Yugoslavs at all would be arriving.

Games Director of Administration Ray Gridley said Monday:

"Every effort is being made to make amends."

Ironically, Lebanon, whose 20-strong squad arrived totally without notice at the weekend, did take part in the ceremony and it was confirmed Monday they would be allowed to compete.

#### Games torch goes out

The World Student Games made a disastrous start Sunday when British astronaut Helen Sharman tripped, extinguishing the blazing torch being used to light the ceremonial flame.

Sharman, who earlier this year spent eight days in space, had just received the torch in the centre of the Don Valley Stadium.

But as she made her way along the red carpet, heading for the ceremonial bowl, she stumbled. The torch crashed in embryo to the ground leaving Sharman stunned and confused.

After a few seconds delay, officials urged her to run the rest of the way with the torch extinguished.

Sharman carried on bravely and because the flame in the bowl was ignited automatically the ceremony continued.

Games official Penny Dain said: "She tripped on a kerb under the carpet at the edge of the track."

### Lemond still leads as tour enters 2nd week

**RENNES**, France (AP) — Greg Lemond started the second week of the Tour de France the same way he started the first — as the



Greg Lemond

behind stage winner Mauro Ribeiro of Brazil.

For Lemond, two days is the longest stint he's had wearing the yellow jersey since the middle of the 1989 race.

It's also the way he usually ends the race, although two weeks remain in this year's bid for a third consecutive title.

Lemond started this year's race with the yellow jersey as the defending champion. He gave it up immediately to Thierry Marie of France, who won the prologue.

Lemond got it back the next day after the first stage, but held onto it for just an afternoon before Rolf Sorensen of Denmark claimed it for the next four days.

"Since the beginning of the tour, everybody's been attacking. That's why the lead has changed so much," Lemond said.

After Sorensen went out with a broken collarbone and Marie got it back for a second time, Lemond again took the lead — and the yellow jersey — by placing second in Saturday's time trial.

He held it for a second consecutive day on Sunday by finishing in the pack, 53 seconds

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JULY 16, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation  
GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of Tuesday until about 2:29 PM PDT, can be quite tedious before the Moon in Libra turns Saturn providing us with benefits through a willing acceptance of.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Seeing new ways by which you can get your work done much better is of first importance now so look at all sides of jobs facing you for the best.

#### TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

This is your day to go compli-

ments to those usual contacts who deserve them and make a point to show your devotion to conscientious helpers.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think out a better course under which you operate and make a point to show you are the one who does value news to increase money given to you.

#### MOON CHILDREN

(June 22 to July 21)

Whatever matters the most to you in putting across some new plan can be better understood by the study you put into the available sources of information, you have.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are many facets of your responsibilities and all of them at this time require you to analyze how you can best handle them later.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look for some idea, not thought of before this, by which you can greatly impress a partner and get him to go along more wholeheartedly with your ambitions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a chance to get paid for some project you have to do that can make conditions for you easier for you to handle present obligations.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your moment to show you do value the pleasures that have been yours and to enter into some new arrangements with a clever admirer.

### Chile, Argentinian advance to finals of America Cup

**SANTIAGO**, Chile (AP) — Argentina and Chile filled half of the final round of the America Cup Sunday, Argentina beating Peru 3-2 for its fourth straight win and host Chile routing Paraguay 4-0.

Advancing to the second round was a major goal for Chile, which already has been banned from the 1994 World Cup because its goalkeeper, Roberto Rojas, faked an injury during a World Cup qualifying game in 1989.

Argentina finished with a 4-0 record and as the winner of Group A in the 10-nation South American Championship. Chile's victory gave it a 3-0-1 record, putting it ahead of Paraguay (2-0-2), Peru (1-0-3), and Venezuela (0-0-4).

Brazil plays Ecuador and Uruguay plays Colombia in the final doubleheader of Group B. Colombia has five points, while Ecuador, Brazil and Uruguay have three each. Only the top two teams in each group advance.

Chile got three of its goals from European-based players. Hugo Rubio of Saint Gallen of Switzerland.

### Mansell adds drama to Formula One racing

**SILVERSTONE**, England (R)

Nigel Mansell's commanding victory in Sunday's British Grand Prix motor race has lifted him into contention for the world drivers' title at the halfway stage of the 1991 season.

The 37-year-old Briton is now 18 points behind championship leader Ayrton Senna and closing fast on the Brazilian, runaway winner of the season's first four races.

Senna said he had been stunned by Mansell's performance, particularly when he overtook him on the first lap, and conceded that Mansell was now a real threat to his ambition for a third title in four years.

"What happened?" he said. "It was just incredible. Mansell just flew past me and I could do nothing. He drove so well and was so quick. It was a great victory for him."

Despite reeling off a record four successive victories at the start of the season, Senna has always maintained that his McLaren, powered by a Honda V12 engine, is not the perfect machine it appears to be.

This was proved on the opening lap Sunday when Mansell, in his Williams powered by the Renault V10, made a poor start. "I missed the red light going out," admitted Mansell. "I was a split second too late."

It mattered little as once Mansell had caught Senna on the hangar straight, he was able to power past the Brazilian and carry on to win the 59-lap race. Senna ran out of fuel on the final

lap and finished fourth.

"I was disappointed, of course, not to finish second because that would have been very good for my championship position," said Senna. "Now it is going to be a very close struggle."

Mansell, who has 33 points to Senna's 51, said he would not even contemplate winning his first championship.

"I cannot even dream about it," he said. "We are only halfway through the season and we'll just have to wait and see."

Mansell may wish to avoid discussion of the championship, but he cannot be overlooked that he has become the form driver in the four races since Monaco.

At the Canadian Grand Prix in June, he was unlucky to have victory taken from him on the final lap by a failure with his computer-controlled semi-automatic gearbox. Two weeks later, in Mexico, he finished second, only 1.3 seconds behind his team mate, Riccardo Patrese.

This was followed by two victories so far in July which have launched his challenge. He is, however, unlikely to find victory for me and for Ferrari just to concentrate on winning a race soon."

With 21 points, prost is fourth in the championship behind Patrese on 20, the Italian having failed to collect any points Sunday after a first-lap tangle with Berger.

Patrese, however, remains Mansell's greatest obstacle in pursuit of the title because, with his fine form this year in the Williams, he has shown he is capable of out-pacing his British team mate.

This suggests that even if the second half of the season is dominated by the Williams team, the drivers will have to divide the spoils and may well give Senna a more comfortable passage to the championship than he expects.

#### Suzuki fined

Japan's Aguri Suzuki was fined \$10,000 by race stewards for dangerous driving after his Lola collided with the Ferrari of Frenchman Jean Alesi Sunday.

Suzuki, in 14th place, had pulled across in front of Alesi going into a corner on lap 31 as the fourth-placed Frenchman tried to

lap him.

Both men retired after the clash. Suzuki pulling off immediately and Alesi coming into the pits one lap later with a broken nose cone.

Meanwhile, Formula One newsmen Jordan won escape from the ordeal of pre-qualifying until mid-1992 after finishing in the points at the British Grand Prix.

Frenchman Bertrand Gachot, forced to pre-qualify with team mate Andrea de Cesari of Italy here, finished sixth in the race to pick up the team's 10th championship point this season.

The result made them the sixth-ranked team on the circuit.

Under Formula One rules, the top 13 teams — based on results during the second half of one season and the first half of the next — automatically enter official race qualifying sessions.

Other drivers have to pre-qualify, with the fastest four joining the rest of the field to fight for a place on the starting grid.

Silverstone marked the halfway point in the 1991 season.

Brabham's British duo of Mark Blundell and Martin Brundle, previously exempt due to their results, will now have to pre-qualify.

They needed a seventh place at Silverstone to stave off the drop but both drivers were forced to retire due to mechanical failure.

They were joined by the struggling AGS and Footwork teams while Lamborghini and Dallara now join Jordan in the main qualifying sessions.

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**KOWEA**

**NARCH**

**TRY SAP**

**SUTTRY**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: **\_\_\_\_\_** — **\_\_\_\_\_** (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's **Jumble**: **TYPED FETCH UPROAR CHOSEN**

Answer: The less one knows of boxing, the more one becomes acquainted with this—**THE ROPES**

### Gustafsson routs Mancini to win Swedish Open

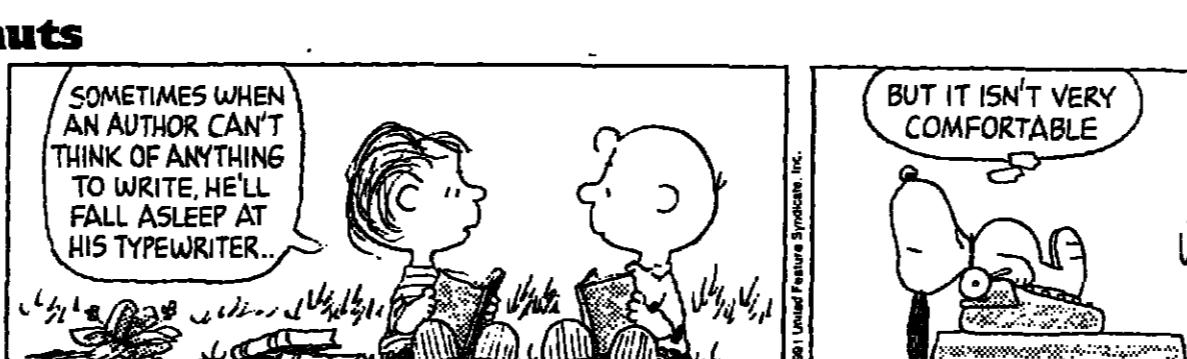
**BASTAD**, Sweden (AP) — Second-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden routed Alberto Mancini of Argentina 6-1, 6-2 in less than an hour to win the Swedish Open Men's Tennis Championship.

"I hardly didn't miss a shot today. This is the greatest moment in my career," Gustafsson said.

It was the second ATP Tour title for the 24-year-old Swede, who also won clay-court tournament two months ago in Munich, Germany.

"But it's more satisfying to win

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ A ♦ Q 8 4  
7 5  
Q 10 3  
♦ J 10 6 5

**WEST**  
EAST  
♦ 8 8 4 3  
9 6 5 2  
9 8 8 3  
♦ 7 4 3

**SOUTH**  
♦ 9 7 6  
A K Q J 10  
A K J  
A K

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass  
6 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl  
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♦  
Follow the bidding and play of this hand. Then decide who should be charged with errors, and how many.

North had a difficult response to make. Afraid a jump to three no trump, the value bid, would deprive North-South of too much bidding space. North elected to make a positive response on a four-card suit. Impressed by 150 honors, South drove to the heart slam. East's double requested a spade lead.

Since West's two of spades was obviously a singleton, declarer rose

with the ace and drew four rounds of trumps. With no clear way to 12 tricks, declarer cashed the last trump, on which West discarded the two of diamonds,

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
also known as International Markets					
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE			
date: 12/7/1991	15/7/1991				
Sterling Pound	1.6493	1.6450			
Deutsche Mark	1.7195	1.7190			
Swiss Franc	1.5493	1.5520			
French Franc	6.0730	6.0815**			
Japanese Yen	136.40	137.00			
European Currency Unit	1.1465	1.1473**			
USD Per STD					
European Opened or 6:00 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates	Date: 5/7/1991				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.06	6.31		
Sterling Pound	31.06	10.87	10.68		
Deutsche Mark	6.75	6.93	9.12		
Swiss Franc	7.68	7.75	7.75		
French Franc	9.37	9.57	9.43		
Japanese Yen	7.57	7.53	7.37		
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.75	9.61		
Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals	Date: 15/7/1991				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	569.50	7.10	Silver	4.42	.10
For 100					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Date: 15/7/1991				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.666	.688			
Sterling Pound	1.1277	1.1333			
Deutsche Mark	.3650	.3849			
Swiss Franc	.4423	.4445			
French Franc	.1128	.1134			
Japanese Yen	.4997	.5022			
Dutch Guilder	.3400	.3417			
Swedish Krona	.1058	.1063			
Italian Lira	.0514	.0517			
Belgian Franc	.01856	.01865			
For 100					
Other Currencies	Date: 15/7/1991				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7870	1.7950			
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.0790			
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1835			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1853	.1865			
Egyptian Pound	.1850	.2000			
Omani Riyal	1.7490	1.7570			
UAE Dirham	.1853	.1865			
Greek Drachma	.5500	.5500			
Cypriot Pound	1.3900	1.4200			
For 100					
CAB Statistics for Amman Financial Market					
Index	10/7/1991 Close	14/7/1991 Close			
All-Share	112.04	110.86			
Banking Sector	107.02	106.36			
Insurance Sector	120.19	119.29			
Industry Sector	117.07	115.19			
Services Sector	127.78	125.47			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.	
One Sterling	1.6430/40
One U.S. dollar	1.1460/65
1.7953/63	U.S. dollar
2.0215/25	Canadian dollar
1.5555/62	Deutschmarks
36.93/97	Dutch guilders
6.0900/50	Swiss francs
1336/337	Belgian francs
137.25/35	French francs
6.4960/10	Italian lire
7.0020/70	Japanese yen
6.9450/9500	Swedish crowns
369.10/369.60	Norwegian crowns
	Danish crowns
	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	

Cinema Tel: 677420

**CONCORD**

Think Big

Show: 5:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Ninja Turtles**

Show: 3:30, 6:45 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

**NIJOMI**

The theatre and movies house are closed because of decoration works.

## New air-freight company to take off in early November

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian business group has secured a licence to operate an Amman-based air cargo company, and the licensees expect the firm to be operational with two leased aircraft by November this year to plug in what produce exporters describe as a gap in the local air-freight market.

The licence has been issued to Khaled Shaheen of the Shaheen group of companies, whose activities include produce export. The group is pursuing what a company official said were "technical and operational" issues with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to secure its approval for the new entity.

Independent sources expected the approval process to be tough. "The Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority is following the same technical and safety standards and levels as laid down by some of the advanced Western countries," noted one source.

But the company official said he did not expect any major problems over technical and safety standards.

The idea of an air-freight company has been in the air for several years, particularly in light of oft-heard complaints by produce exporters that the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), has been monopolising the market.

RJ officials deny the charges and say that the Jordanian import market or the volume of produce exports is not big enough for an additional air-freight company. They also maintain that there is little coordination among Jordanian agricultural exporters to lower freight costs by sharing space in outgoing RJ cargo planes.

The licence has been issued to Mr. Shaheen's Mediterranean Express Cargo in line with the government policy of encouraging the private sector.

"We do not disagree that an air cargo company cannot survive solely on produce exports from Jordan" — which is limited to an October-May season — said a senior company official.

"Our plans envisage a network, in cooperation with European and Far Eastern airline companies, which will use Jordan as a transit point for exports and imports among European, Middle Eastern and Far Eastern countries in addition to ferrying fresh produce from Jordan," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

Mediterranean Express Cargo will have an initial capital of \$200,000 and an operating capital of \$1.5 million, the company official told the Jordan Times. The company plans to lease two Boeing 707-320 aircraft from American or European private operators in its first phase of operations.

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher after thin trade which moved in a narrow range after Friday gains by the yen and Wall Street initially pushed prices up. The Nikkei average closed up 321.26 points or 1.39 per cent to 23,459.04.

SYDNEY — Scattered support pushed the market higher in quiet trade, with most interest focused on the \$374 million takeover bid for food group Petersens Sleigh. The All Ordinaries Index ended up 7.3 points at 1,539.2.

FRANKFURT — Shares drifted further into the summer doldrums, ending mixed in very light trade. The Dax Index ended up 1.77 at 1,646.53.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer in quiet trading. Many investors were on vacation and the market lacked fresh direction. The SPI Index closed up 4.1 at 1,21.4.

PARIS — Stocks ended marginally higher after a session lacking any motivation. The CAC-40 Index closed 5.48 higher at 1,759.77.

LONDON — Shares closed at the day's highs after a late afternoon surge caused by dealers marking stock up as London lost some of its economic caution. The FTSE Index closed at 2,532.5, up 35.1.

NEW YORK — Blue chips remained slightly higher but were stuck in a tight range in early afternoon trading. The Dow was up for at 2,985.

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

## IMF cautions Israel about taking loans

TEL AVIV (AP) — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) report cautioned Israel Sunday about taking loans, saying it should first see whether its economic growth forecasts are borne out.

Banks of Israel officials have said that after reading the report they will decide whether to formally request a \$300 million IMF loan.

A five-man team spent 10 days in Israel and gave its report to the central bank's governor, Michael Bruno. It made no recommendation whether or not to give Israel the loan if it requests it.

"If we manage to restore our Gulf markets to the pre-crisis level, then the main beneficiaries would be land transport companies rather than air freighters," noted an industry source.

But that does not preclude the government from adding to additional external and internal debt," the report said, adding that loans could be sought later if growth turned out to be high.

It said the government was too deeply involved in the economy and was dragging its feet in liberalizing it.

It said inflation remained the biggest danger, and required Israel to decrease its deficit.

The team also discussed the immigration of hundreds of thousands of new immigrants to the country and how the government should help absorb them. Israel is also seeking \$10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States to underwrite borrowings to help cover housing and employment for the newcomers.

Israel wants the IMF loan to help cover its losses during the Gulf war. The Bank of Israel estimates that the war reduced tourism income by \$414 million and increased oil costs by \$317 million.

The IMF facility is designed to help countries weather short-term problems with their balance of payments, a broad measure of a country's trade and service exchange with the world.

Israel last considered approaching the IMF in 1985, when it adopted a major anti-inflation programme. Instead, it received a \$1.5 billion grant from the United States to help protect its reserves, bank officials said.

## Exiled Greek royals owe Athens \$3 m in paid taxes

ATHENS (R) — Greece's royal family, in exile for more than 20 years, owes millions of dollars in unpaid taxes. Finance Minister Ioannis Palaiokrassas has said.

King Constantine, 51, who fled into exile with his family in December 1967 after a military coup, owes the state 523 million drachmas (\$2.6 million) in unpaid taxes and accumulated interest, he said in reply to a question in parliament. Princess Sophia, now the queen of Spain, owes 29 million drachmas (\$150,000) and her sister, Princess Irene, owes 34 million drachmas (\$170,000), he said. Mr. Palaiokrassas has threatened in the past to confiscate the royal family's homes and property around Greece if they fail to pay up. Greece voted in December 1974 to abolish the monarchy.

Chemical and Manufacturers, two of New York's oldest and best-known banks, said they planned to lay off about 6,200

Duty unpaid, in a good condition, model 1983 or above, not more than 1200 dinars.

Please call 642878 or 642190 (every day except Friday and Saturday)

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Tender For The Purchase Of A Dairy Processing Plant

In The Zarqa Governorate

Announces its intention to purchase a modern dairy plant with a 60 tonne milk a day production capacity provided that the plant have several production lines especially in the pasteurisation unit which must have no less than a five-tonne-an-hour capacity, in addition to a packaging machine that can cater to the pasteurisation unit's production.

Bidders should enclose a guaranteed cheque or a bank guarantee equivalent to 10 per cent of the total value of the bid. The bid should offer facilities spreading the payments over at least five years and should be calculated in Jordanian dinars and that all dealings and payments should be conducted through the society itself.

All bids should be submitted to the society office in Zarqa, the old Zarqa-Amman road, near the Royal Jordanian office, Tel: 986521, fax: 980315, not later than Saturday, August 8, 1991.

Signed by the management committee

## Kuwaiti emir authorises borrowing \$33b to rebuild

Abdullah Al Gabandi, managing director of the Kuwait Investment Authority in a recent interview.

Last estimates suggest Kuwait will have to spend about \$20 billion on reconstruction. This figure excludes the cost of financing the military operations of the U.S.-led allies which drove out Iraqi forces at the end of February.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla Al Rodhan said in June the cost of financing the international force amounted to \$22 billion.

The emir's decree said: "The borrowing will be effected ... without restricting it to the issuing of treasury bills and bonds in the local market, by borrowing in various international financial markets."

The central bank last week resumed issuing treasury bonds suspended after the invasion.

The government, which expects a deficit of \$80 billion over the next five years, needs to meet the cost of reconstruction while awaiting the return of petro-dollars through oil exports.

Kuwait was producing up to two million barrels of oil a day before the Iraqi invasion. Its current output of about 180,000 barrels a day is hardly enough to meet domestic needs.

From rebuilding the economy and paying for the allied war effort, the emir also has to satisfy the needs of 700,000 Kuwaitis accustomed to a lavish cradle-to-grave welfare system.

After the merger, the new Chemicals' company's chairman and chief executive officer while Mr. Shipley, 55, will be president and chief operating officer. Mr. Shipley is expected to succeed Mr. McGillicuddy as chief executive officer Jan. 1, 1994, the statement said.

After the merger, the new Chemicals' company plans to raise \$1.25 billion in common stock, both companies said. They also said they planned to

## Indonesian army kills rebel chief

JAKARTA (R) — The Indonesian army has shot dead an Acehnese rebel leader as he tried to flee to Malaysia, the Indonesian news agency, Antara, reported Monday.

The military shot Saleh Gedong, a commander of the Free Aceh Movement, in a raid in Lhokseumawe Sunday as he was travelling to neighbouring Malaysia to pass information to the rebel group's leader, Hasan Di Tiro, the agency quoted army spokesman Marsono as saying.

Mr. Di Tiro, whose group wants to split from Jakarta and set up an Islamic state, is based in Sweden and has representatives in Malaysia.

The slain rebel was carrying a Malaysian identity card, the spokesman said.

Several Aceh rebels have fled to Malaysia recently after being hunted by the military, and by villagers who blame them for the

violence in the northern Indonesian province.

"The Acehnese want to get back stability in the region so they can enjoy the fruits of development," Mr. Marsono said.

A major reason behind the year-and-a-half old rebellion, in which hundreds are believed to have been killed, was that little of the province's wealth was being spent at home, local sources have said.

Seven rebels were killed in military raids earlier this month. Several others have been jailed.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas appealed Monday to six countries claiming a cluster of islands in the South China Sea to set aside territorial demands and decide how to share the area's natural resources.

Mr. Alatas, speaking at the opening of the first conference of all claimants to the disputed is-

lands, advised the meeting against concentrations on the territorial demands.

"Rather, realising as we all do that the South China Sea does contain factors of inherent controversy, our attention and efforts should continue to be directed towards finding ways to transform potential sources of conflict into constructive forms of cooperation for mutual benefit," he said.

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The diplomats said the next round of talks could involve maritime powers in the region including the Soviet Union.

The first talks, held on the Indonesian island of Bali in January last year, were limited to members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

One diplomat said Indonesia's objective in organising the talks was to prevent the rise of another conflict to replace Cambodia in the region and to work towards a security arrangement among the states on the shores of the South China Sea.

## Hun Sen makes first visit to China

PEKING (R) — Phnom Penh government leader Hun Sen arrived in Peking Monday for a meeting of rival Cambodian factions, the first public visit to China by an official of the Vietnamese-backed administration.

China supports Mr. Hun Sen's most powerful guerrilla enemies, the radical Khmer Rouge, but appears to have adopted the role of peacemaker by providing a venue for a gathering of Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) and welcoming Mr. Hun Sen.

The SNC is composed of the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge and two smaller non-Communist guerrilla groups and is central to a United Nations plan to end 12 years of war in Cambodia.

Under the peace plan, the SNC will represent Cambodian sovereignty while the United Nations virtually runs the country and polices a ceasefire before national elections.

The two-day meeting that is due to start Tuesday is being hosted by Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who was at Peking's capital airport to greet Mr. Hun Sen.

The Phnom Penh leader was driven off in a long motorcycle to Peking's Diaoyutai state guesthouse.

Diplomats said although they did not expect any breakthroughs from the meeting, which is to prepare for a full SNC session in Bangkok next month, China's clear backing for the SNC and the peace plan would bring the warring factions closer together to end the agony of Cambodia's people.

They said that at the last SNC meeting in Pattaya, Thailand, China had pressed its Khmer Rouge clients into agreeing to a ceasefire, a ban on arms imports and moving the SNC headquarters to Phnom Penh.

In another indication that progress is expected at the Peking meeting, representatives of the five permanent members of the United Nations — China, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — will hold a separate, overlapping session.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday that the two-day U.N. meeting would begin Wednesday.

The camp was surrounded by an estimated 500 rebels firing from bunkers as close as 200 metres, military sources said.

In fighting Sunday, one soldier carrying a grenade was killed when he jumped into a bulldozer filled with explosives the rebels were using to breach the camp defences. The vehicle exploded with the soldier inside, the sources said.

Accounting for rebel losses a military officer in Colombo said:

"Camp commander Major Sanath Karunaratne said the figure of 140 dead rebels came from a count of the bodies lying on all four sides of the camp and from rebel radio intercepts."

He said Maj. Karunaratne's battalion from the army's 6th Sinha Regiment, pinned down inside the camp, was defending the base using rocket-propelled grenades, recoilless rifles and other weapons.

Phnom Penh has ruled out disarmament and demobilisation before elections and wants the U.N. plan to include guarantees against a return to power by the Khmer Rouge, whose reign of terror in the 1970s killed one million Cambodians.

Mr. Hun Sen was installed in office in 1979 by Vietnamese invaders who toppled the Khmer Rouge.

## Seoul offers North joint celebration of liberation

SEOUL (R) — South Korea offered Monday to ease rivalry with the Communist North by jointly hosting events next month to commemorate Korean liberation from Japanese rule 46 years ago.

Unification Minister Choi Ho-joong suggested working level talks start next week to work out details for the commemorative events, including cross-border marches, prayer meetings and academic talks on unification.

If Pyongyang, still technically at war with Seoul since their 1950-53 conflict, accepts the Southern proposal, it would be the first time the divided nations have jointly celebrated Korea's independence from the 1910-45 Japanese colonial rule.

Last week, the South accepted a Northern proposal to resume prime ministerial talks on Aug. 27 after a seven-month break.

The prime ministers of North and South Korea last met in Seoul in December for the third round in a series begun last September. The talks were the highest inter-Korean dialogue since the peninsula was split into two hostile halves in 1945.

The international community today is washed with a tide of reconciliation and openness that brought down the cold war regime," Mr. Choi said in a televised statement Monday.

"It is the ardent desire of our 70 million compatriots, therefore,

## U.S. tells Manila Clark Air Base future doubtful

MANILA (R) — Fears of mud flows, flooding and more volcanic eruptions have cast doubt over the future of Clark Air Base as a U.S. military facility in the Philippines. U.S. envoy Richard Armitage said Monday.

"I have already indicated to (Philippine Foreign) Secretary Raul Manglapus, unfortunately, that the future of Clark is questionable," Mr. Armitage said on arriving in Manila for the seventh round of talks on the future of U.S. bases in the Philippines.

The Mount Pinatubo volcano, which exploded again Monday on the 37th day of its eruptions, has smothered Clark and Subic Naval Station under volcanic ash and forced more than 20,000 U.S. servicemen and dependents to evacuate.

"Our facilities at Clark and Subic have sustained substantial damage," Mr. Armitage said.

"Clark's outlook is further clouded by the continuing emissions of ash from Mount Pinatubo that pose a serious hazard to aviation."

"The estimated cost of reconstructing either or both of these facilities, as well as the time involved, promises to be considerable," Mr. Armitage, Washington's chief negotiator, said in a statement.

"There is also the potential for further damage from mud flows and floods, especially in the case of Clark which is flanked by huge concentrations of ash."

The current U.S. lease on Clark and Subic runs out in September.

Negotiations on the future of the bases have dragged on for more than a year, with both sides unable to agree on duration of a new treaty and how much Washington should pay.

Before Pinatubo started erupting on June 9, Manila had offered a seven-year deal at \$825 million

## Column 10

### Platoon pulls parade prank on Cresson

PARIS (AP) — Military cadets at a prestigious French academy turned an annual tradition into a prank on France's new premier, Edith Cresson. The cadets, from the elite Ecole Polytechnique, each wore a sprig of watercress — "Cresson" in French — in their sashes as they marched down the Champs-Elysees in the annual Bastille Day parade. The tradition, the cadets each year come up with a new gag for the parade, which celebrates the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789. Mrs. Cresson, France's first woman premier, stood at the parade's reviewing stand beside President Francois Mitterrand. Sources close to the premier said they "were amused."

### Loren tops Legion of Honour list

PARIS (AP) — Actress Sophia Loren topped the Bastille Day list of 50 people named to or elevated within the prestigious Legion of Honour. Her name was published in *Journal Officiel* Sunday, the 202nd anniversary of the fall of the Bastille Prison. Admision to the Legion of Honour, established by Napoleon in 1802, is awarded for long and distinguished public service, either military or civilian. The Rome-born Loren, 56, known for her sultry roles in numerous Hollywood and Italian films over a 30-year period, was awarded the rank of Chevalier, the lowest grade in the prestigious order.

### Watch out for that bag

LONDON (AP) — The "media bag" issued to journalists covering the economic summit exactly resembles in shape and design a bag on a poster distributed through the London subway which warns: "Bombs be alert."

There was opposition from some sectors of the U.S. public to further spending on military facilities "in the shadow of an active volcano halfway around the world" after the recently announced closure of nearly three dozen domestic military bases, Mr. Armitage said.

The strategic rationale for U.S. facilities in the Philippines remained valid, despite the devastation caused by Mount Pinatubo, he said.

The commander of American forces in the Pacific said Monday he was pessimistic about Clark's future as a U.S. base but that there would be no hasty withdrawal if Washington decided to give up the base.

Admiral Charles Larson inspected Clark and Subic at the weekend to assess the damage.

"What I saw made me very pessimistic about Clark," he said.

Asked if the United States would abandon the air base, Adm. Larson said: "No, abandon would be a very bad term. If we did not stay in Clark, I would call it a very orderly withdrawal and a way to preserve to a maximum extent some of the resources there."

He did not elaborate.

Philippine officials earlier said they thought the U.S. Air Force might keep some of its communications facilities at Clark as well as a portion of the runway for C-130 transport aircraft.

RABBIS' CURSES TO BE OUTLAWED

RABBIS who scare followers by imprecating rival political parties are now expected to face earthly punishment, in addition to any possible celestial wrath. The Israeli cabinet has approved an amendment to the Knesset election law, stating that "curses and excommunication" will now constitute unlawful threats and violators will be subject to up to five years of imprisonment. The amendment still requires Knesset approval this week before becoming law. In the last election, rabbis of different religious parties, notably Shas, appeared on television to invoke curses against those who voted for their rivals. With elections possibly on the horizon, secular cabinet ministers decided they did not want to take any chances and risk granting their religious rivals an unfair, if unholy, advantage. However, cabinet-level officials scratched their heads, yesterday. According to the new proposed law, unmerited blessings in favour of political parties will also be subject to the same period of incarceration — the Jerusalem Post.

### Couple wed in jail gets unexpected honeymoon

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — Marjie and Robert Reichard were married in jail, but they got an unexpected honeymoon on the outside because of a paperwork mix-up. "It was a dream come true," Mrs. Reichard said. "The lord was giving us a week. I was so thankful we got the time to spend together." The two were wed on June 26 in Lancaster County Jail, where Mr. Reichard was in custody on a fugitive-from-justice charge from Cape Girardeau, for allegedly violating probation. Just hours after the wedding, he was released because of the mix-up. The mistake was discovered seven days later. The sheriff's office contacted Mr. Reichard, who returned to custody voluntarily and went back to Missouri on July 3 to face the charge.



Mahathir Mohamad

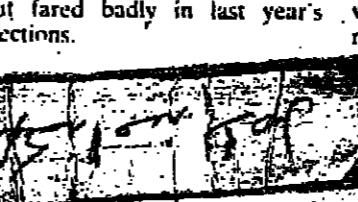
forgotten some of his more controversial actions, said political analyst Yeoh, adding that his popularity had risen only in the past two to three years.

Mr. Mahathir had plenty of problems in his early years in power.

His deputy, Musa Hitam, resigned in 1986 and a year later Mr. Mahathir narrowly survived a challenge to his leadership of UMNO by arch-rival Razaleigh Hamzah.

Mr. Razaleigh left UMNO to form the splinter Semanggi 46 Party and joined forces with other opposition parties in an effort to topple Mr. Mahathir.

"He is a man consumed with a sense of mission to transform Malaysia," said an industrialist who has known Mr. Mahathir for many years.



Robert Reichard

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